

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith replacement drawing sheets for the present application that include amended FIGS. 3, 4 and 6. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments to the figures.

Applicant has amended FIGS. 3 and 4 such that the previously illustrated platform is numbered 10. Applicant has also amended FIGS. 3 and 4 to include a QUASI-ELECTROSTATIC FIELD GENERATOR SOURCE 12 connected to the platform 10. Support for this addition to FIGS. 3 and 4 is found throughout the application as originally filed, including, for example, claim 1, paragraph [0010] and the Abstract as originally filed.

Applicant has also amended FIG. 6 to include circuitry 14 coupled to electrodes a, b, c and d. Support for this addition to FIG. 6 is found throughout the application as originally filed, including, for example, claim 1, paragraph [0011] and the Abstract as originally filed.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 26, 2006. Applicant acknowledges that prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3 and 5. Claims 1-5 remain pending.

Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as failing to show “a platform,” a quasi-electrostatic field generator source,” and “a circuitry connected to the electrodes.” As discussed above, Applicant has amended FIGS. 3 and 4 such that the previously illustrated platform is numbered 10, and to include a QUASI-ELECTROSTATIC FIELD GENERATOR SOURCE 12 connected to the platform 10. As discussed above, Applicant has also amended FIG. 6 to include circuitry 14 coupled to electrodes a, b, c and d. Applicant submits that these amendments to the drawings address the Examiner’s objection, and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

As discussed above, no new matter is introduced by way of the amendments to the drawings. Support for the amendments is found throughout the application as originally filed, including, for example, claim 1, paragraphs [0010] and [0011], and the Abstract as originally filed.

Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification as providing no clear written descriptive support for the claim terms: “a quasi-electrostatic field,” “a platform,” and “a quasi-electrostatic field generator source.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this objection, as these terms find clear support in at least the Abstract and paragraphs [0008]-[0010] of the application as originally filed. In addition, the originally filed claims themselves provide written description support for the claim terms “a quasi-electrostatic field,” “a platform,” and “a quasi-electrostatic field generator source.” Nevertheless, in the interest expediting allowance of the application, Applicant has amended paragraphs [0032], [0033] and [0046], as indicated above, to

provide further, clear written descriptive support for the identified claim terms.² Applicant submits that these amendments to the specification address the Examiner's objection, and respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the claim 3 because of a typographical error. Applicant has amended claim 3 to correct the typographical error, and requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objected to claim 5 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being a multiple dependent claim that improperly depended from another multiple dependent claim. Applicant has amended claim 5 to depend from any of claims 1 and 2, rather than any of claims 1-3, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicant has also amended claims 3 and 5 to correct other typographical errors.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 because the term "the sensor system" in independent claim 1 lacked antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "a sensor system," and submits that claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, as required by 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-4 are allowed except for the formality-based objections and rejections. Applicant has addressed these objections and rejections, as discussed above. The Examiner also indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if

² Applicant has also amended paragraph [0045] to correct a typographical error.

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rewritten in independent form, or to be dependent upon the any of claims 1 and 2. In this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 5 to be dependent on any of claims 1 and 2, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant submits that claims 1-5 are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

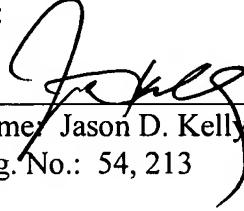
All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

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